

Twelfth Street Car Shops, Fire Engine House No. 7
1128 Ninth Avenue
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-231-B

HAER
PA,
7-ALTO,
6-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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TWELFTH STREET CAR SHOPS, FIRE ENGINE HOUSE NO. 7

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Location: 1128 Ninth Avenue, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania
USGS Quad: Altoona, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.720360 N.4487860

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad

Present Owner: Altoona Pipe & Steel Supply Company

Present Use: Manufacturing Railroad Rolling Stock

Significance: Fire Engine House No. 7 retains architectural details which suggest that it is contemporary with the final enlargement of the adjacent Stores/Laboratory, about 1905.

Project Information: This project was undertaken by HAER in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project as part of an architectural survey covering a nine-county region in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Randall Cooley, Director. See HAER No. PA-108, Pennsylvania Railroad, Altoona Works, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania for further project information and documentation.

Compiler: Peter Stott, Historian
Gray Fitzsimons, Editor

History:

The present 2-1/2-story, brick firehouse was constructed between 1896 and 1909 on the site of a smaller, earlier fire station. Its architectural details, including brick pilasters, denticular cornice, and pedimented gable end suggests that it is probably contemporary with the final enlargement of the adjacent Stores/Laboratory, about 1905. The PRR converted the firehouse to office use probably in the late 1950s. Apparently as an annex to an adjoining office building. This office building was connected to the old firehouse via the wooden Twelfth Street Bridge, which survived until about 1970, when it was torn down. About 1975 the original wood-frame stable attached to the building's east end was replaced by the present two-story brick addition. Although the window openings have been bricked in, the firehouse retains its five-story hose-drying tower at the eastern end of the building.

Sources:

Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Annual Reports of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Altoona, Pennsylvania: 1888, 1894, 1909.
Hart, Peter J. President, Altoona Pipe & Steel Supply Co., Interviewed, 22 July 1987.
Imler, Carey N. Vice President-Operations, Altoona Pipe & Steel Supply Co., Interviewed, 22 July 1987. [Telephone:
(814) 944-1631]